

Recycling Program Update

March 15, 2021



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Resource Recovery

- +/- 10% Reductions in accidents and injuries
- Uninterrupted core services (trash and recycling) during the pandemic
- Services reopened as we learned more about virus:
 - Daily yard waste collection
 - Food waste composting services
 - Households Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Center at Colvin St

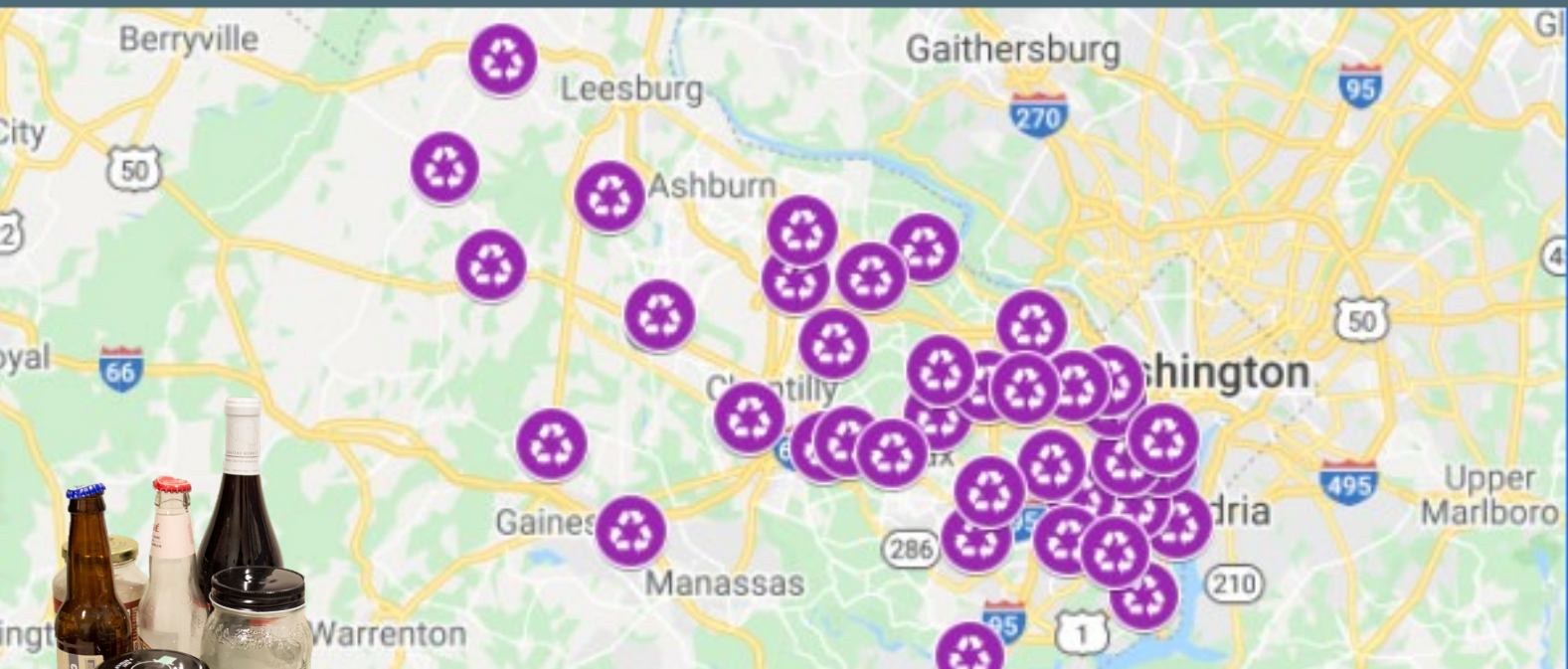


Recycling Market Status

- Recycling markets still unstable and “ups and downs” have been compounded by COVID-19
 - Paper and cardboard markets grown slightly due to increased demand for packages and toilet paper
- New local recycling end markets are opening in Virginia, supported by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
 - Opening 2021 - \$49 M investment - Total Fiber Recovery opening paper recycling facility in Chesapeake, VA
 - 2022 – \$34.2M Cascades converting old paper mill to containerboard mill using 100% recycled content in Richmond
 - Braven Environmental investing \$31.7M investment-plastic facility and manufacturing Pyrolysis Plant in Cumberland County, VA



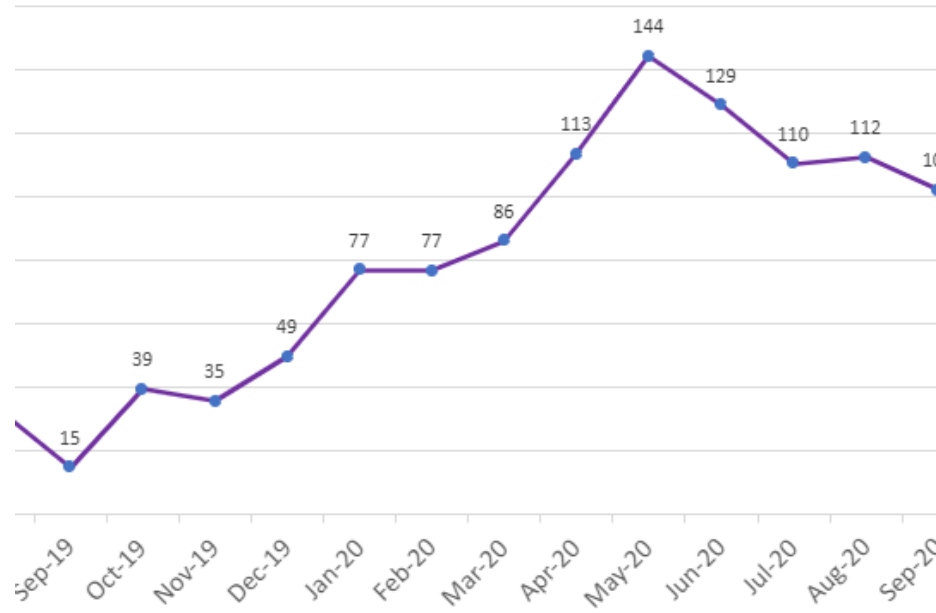
Northern Virginia's Glass Recovery Program



Glass Recycling

- Glass removed in January 2020, added 5th bin at MOM's Organic Market
- 40 glass containers now in the region
- 1,553.8 tons of glass recycled since launch (over 3 million pounds of glass)
- Almost 100,000 pounds of sand from recycled glass used for sandbags for hurricane and tropical storms

GLASS RECYCLING TONNAGES (PURPLE BINS)



YOU'RE CRUSHING IT, ALEXANDRIA!



Sand made from the glass you've been depositing into purple glass-only recycling bins around the region was used in the free sandbags the City gave away this week! Woo-hoo!



Recycle Right Progress

- Recycling sort conducted in March 2020
 - Glass composition dropped from **26% to 9.46%**
 - Residue (contamination) rate dropped from **15% to 10%**
- By contract, the City does a semi-annual sort with the MRF to determine new composition and capture seasonal variation of material
- MRF Audit conducted **Oct 31, 2020** and new ratio is favorable; glass stayed roughly the same, residue rate slightly increased to 11%.





Reducing Contamination & Glass Recycling

- **Reducing Contamination (Residue)**
 - Observing more yard waste and construction waste in recycling
 - New Oops Tags implemented this spring
 - Social Media outreach continued
- **Reducing Glass**
 - Glass Mailer sent to residents in September 2020 (translated in Spanish & Amharic)
 - Social Media outreach continued





DISPOSE OF USED GLOVES AND MASKS IN THE TRASH



(with homage to Dr. Seuss):
do not leave them on the ground
do not leave them in the shopping cart
do not leave them anywhere...but the TRASH.

Help Keep Our Trash & Recycling Workers Safe



Properly dispose of used gloves & masks in the trash.



Bag & tie trash, not recyclables.



Reduce waste & recycle right.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

GOrecycle



Go Recycle

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Keep Our Trash and Recycling Workers Safe



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Go Recycle | Your Washington Area Resource for Recycling Information

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 Share

Recycle Right Campaign

- 1.5 million people reached through broadcast radio (WAMU-FM, WASH-FM, WITH-FM, WKYS-FM, WMMJ-FM, WTOP-FM)
- 3,745,487 delivered impressions through digital media
- 1,050,297 delivered impressions through streaming radio (I-Heart Media and KATZ Digital Media)
- 76,485 delivered impressions through social media

Reduce & Reuse

- Greater focus on reduce messages on social media and outreach



Reduce Waste

- Reduce the use of disposable paper products:
 - Use cloth napkins
 - Use old towels or baby washcloths to wipe up spills rather than paper towels
 - Switch to reusable dishrags



Reduce Waste

Reduce Junk Mail by opting out



Reduce Food Waste

- Menu plan for several days at a time--write down all the food ideas your family has and see if there are common ingredients that can be used across multiple meals.
- Think about how to turn leftovers into components of other meals (e.g. last night's potatoes become the next morning's base for potatoes and eggs).



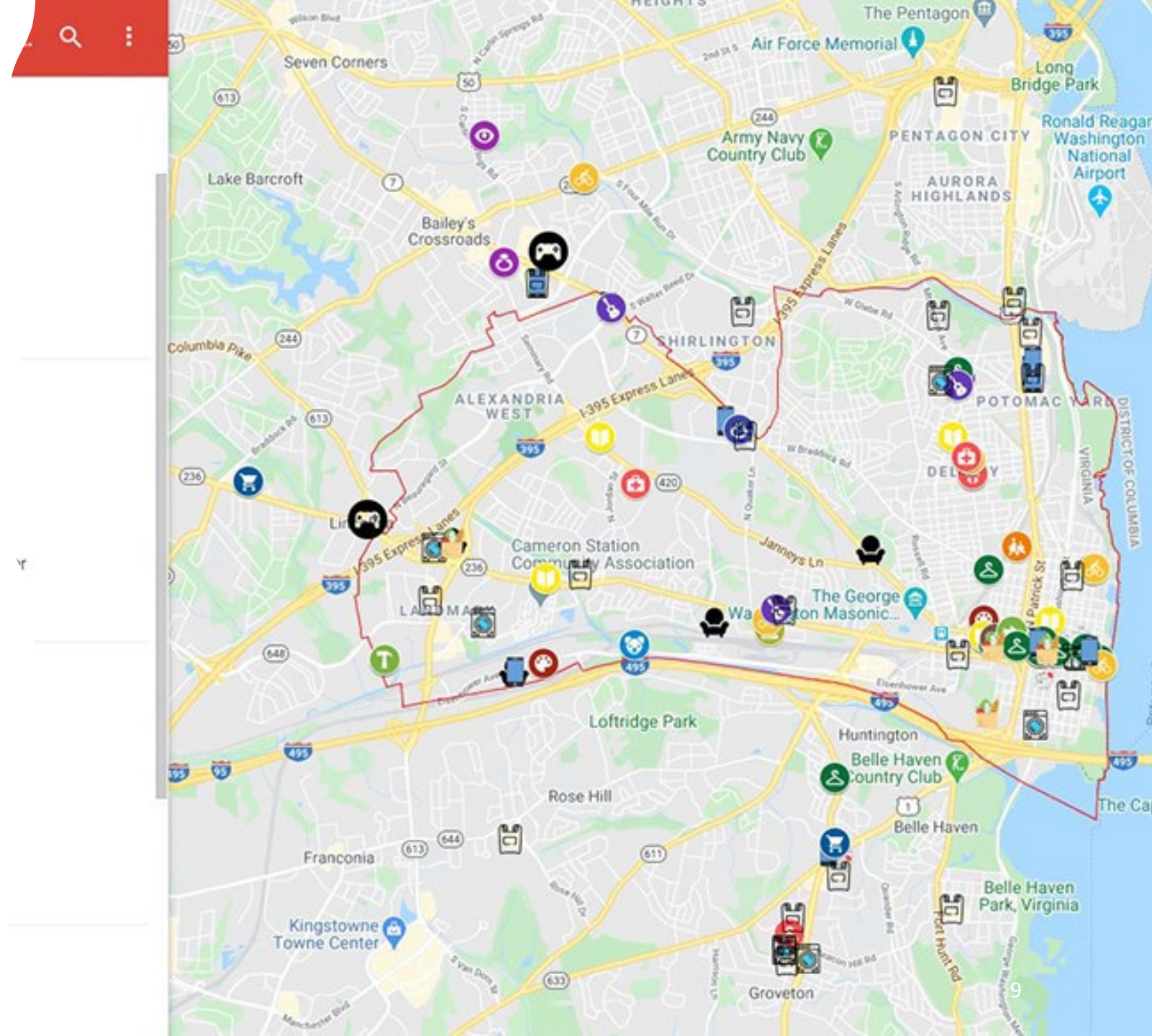
Reduce Food Waste

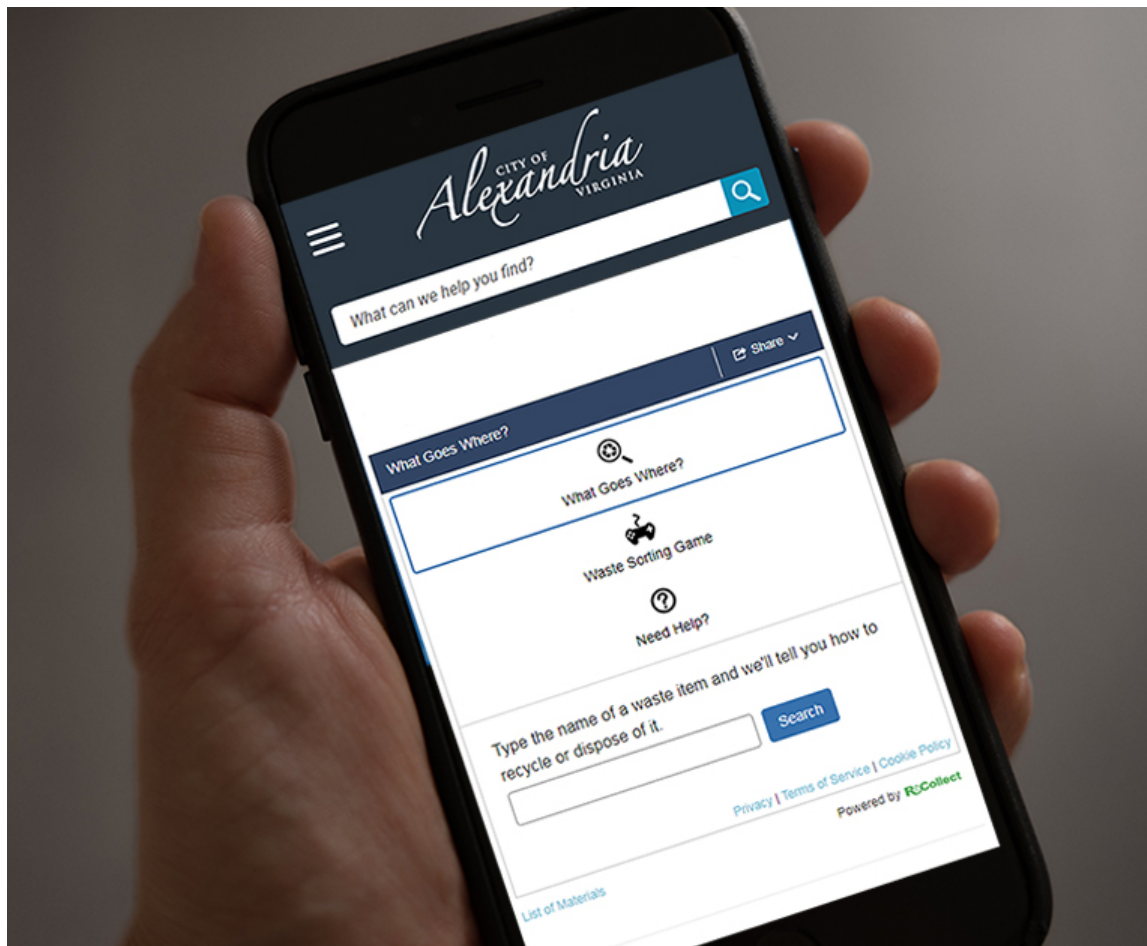
- Make a 'kitchen sink' meal using up small amounts of leftovers. Start w/ a base ingredient like potatoes or rice.
- Watch your fresh produce and freeze items before they go bad.
- Drop extra food off for a neighbor (practice physical distancing).



Reuse Directory

- Reuse Directory for repair, donate, consign services- 21k views since launch
- www.alexandriava.gov/19202





NEW!

Introducing the
What Goes Where
tool - how to sort
your recyclables or
trash

alexandriava.gov/Recycling

What Goes Where Tool

What Goes Where
Implement digital
outreach resources
such as a collection
notification & how
to dispose search
tool.





Share-A-Bag Pilot

Delayed due to COVID-19

Route Optimization Study

- Study has been completed and reviewed by the team
- Due to COVID-19, staffing shortages, and the growing volume of the yard waste program, we have modified our collection routes
- Implementation of the new routes has been tabled until resources are in place to fully resource the yard waste program in FY22
- By summer, we are looking to right-size routes utilizing information from the route optimization study



Plastic Bag Fee Ordinance

- Legislation authorizes City to adopt an ordinance imposing a \$0.05 tax on most disposable plastic bags provided by **grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores.**
- Revenue can be used for:
 - Environmental cleanup
 - Providing education programs to reduce environmental waste
 - Mitigating pollution and litter
 - Providing reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) benefits



Plastic Bag Fee Ordinance (SB 11)

- The state Tax Commissioner is “to collect, administer, and enforce” the tax in essentially the same manner that the retail sales and use tax is collected, administered, and enforced.
- Localities must submit ordinance to the state 3 months prior to effective tax date; tax effective date must be the first day of a calendar quarter.
- State law provides in part that the “Tax Commissioner shall develop and make publicly available guidelines implementing the provisions of this article.”



Plastic Bag Fee Ordinance (SB 11)

- Questions remain on definitions of regulated communities
- No state guidelines to date. Virginia Department of Taxation has notified localities that:
 - it intends to wait to issue guidelines until at least one locality adopts an ordinance
- City is working with the NVRC Waste Management Board to consider regional approach on this issue for messaging and ordinance language



Foam Food Service Containers Ban

- Single-use expanded polystyrene food service container ban.
- Certain chain restaurants to stop using container by July 1, 2023; all food vendors by July 1, 2025.
- HB 1902 passed
- House (57 Y – 39 N)
- Senate Vote (24 Y – 15 N)
- Governor's action deadline 11:50 PM, March 31, 2021



Thank You!

Questions & Answers

More information on Resource Recovery can be found at:

www.alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery

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